

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim numbers 3-7, 9-10, 14-18, 20-21, 25-29, 31-32, 34-38 have been amended as follows:

3. A device according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein said membrane filter comprises a membrane packed in a flat, spiral wound or tubular configuration, preferably a tubular or hollow fibre type configuration.

4. A device according to [any of the] claim[s] 1, [2 or 3,] wherein said membrane filter comprises a membrane having a pore size between 10 - 10,000 kD.

5. A device according to [any of the] claim[s] 1, [2 or 3,] wherein said membrane filter comprises a membrane having a pore size between 0.001 - 5 μm .

6. A device according to [any of the] claim[s] 1 [-5], wherein said membrane filter comprises a membrane made of one or more materials selected from polymeric materials, ceramic materials, and metals.

7. A device according to [any of the] claim[s] 1 [-6], wherein said filter unit further comprises a coarse screen unit for precleaning the dirty solution before it enters the membrane filter.

9. A device according to claim 7 [or 8], wherein said coarse screen unit comprises multiple screens arranged in a sandwich structure.

10. A device according to [any of the] claim[s] 1 [-9], further comprising a pumping means for pumping clean solution from the clean solution tank in backflow through the filter unit.

14. A device in combination with a filtering station according to claim 12 [or 13], wherein said membrane filter comprises a membrane packed in a flat, spiral wound or tubular configuration, preferably a tubular or hollow fibre type configuration.

15. A device in combination with a filtering station according to [any of the] claim[s] 12, [13 or 14,] wherein said membrane filter comprises a membrane having a pore size between 10 - 10,000 kD.

16. A device in combination with a filtering station according to [any of the] claim[s] 12, [13 or 14,] wherein said membrane filter comprises a membrane having a pore size between 0.001 - 5 μm .

17. A device in combination with a filtering station according to [any of the] claim[s] 12 [-16], wherein said membrane filter comprises a membrane made of one or more materials selected from polymeric materials, ceramic materials, and metals.

18. A device in combination with a filtering station according to [any of the] claim[s] 12 [-17], wherein said filter unit further comprises a coarse screen unit for precleaning the dirty solution before it enters the membrane filter.

20. A device in combination with a filtering station according to claim 18 [or 19], wherein said coarse screen unit comprises multiple screens arranged in a sandwich structure.

21. A device in combination with a filtering station according to [any of the] claim[s] 1 [-20], further comprising a pumping means for pumping clean solution from the clean solution tank in backflow through the filter unit.

25. A process according to claim 23 [or 24], wherein said membrane filter comprises a membrane packed in a flat, spiral wound or tubular configuration, preferably a tubular or hollow fibre type configuration.

26. A process according to [any of the] claim[s] 23, [24 or 25,] wherein said membrane filter comprises a membrane having a pore size between 10 - 10,000 kD.

27. A process according to [any of the] claim[s] 23, [24 or 25,] wherein said membrane filter comprises a membrane having a pore size between 0.001 - 5 μm .

28. A process according to [any of the] claim[s] 23 [-27], wherein said membrane filter comprises a membrane made of one or more materials selected from polymeric materials, ceramic materials, and metals.

29. A process according to [any of the] claim[s] 23 [-28], wherein said filter unit further comprises a coarse screen unit for precleaning the dirty solution before it enters the membrane filter.

31. A process according to claim 29 [or 30], wherein said coarse screen unit comprises multiple screens arranged in a sandwich structure.

32. A process according to [any of the] claim[s] 23 [-31], further comprising at least one step of pumping clean solution from the clean solution tank in backflow through the filter unit for cleaning said filter unit.

34. A process according to claim 32 [or 33], wherein each step of pumping clean solution from the clean solution tank in backflow through the filter unit has a duration of from 0.5 to 10 seconds, preferably 1 to 3 seconds.

35. A process according to [any of the] claim[s] 32, [33 or 34,] wherein the back-flush procedure of pumping clean solution from the clean solution tank in backflow through the filter unit takes 0.5 - 30 seconds per minute.

36. A process according to [any of the] claim[s] 32 [-35], wherein the back-flush procedure of pumping clean solution from the clean solution tank in backflow through the filter unit is controlled by an automatic control unit.

37. A process according to [any of the] claim[s] 23 [-36], wherein clean solution is recirculated to the clean solution tank at a flow of from 0.1 to 1,000 l/hr.

38. A process according to [any of the] claim[s] 23 [-37], wherein the solution is a detergent solution having a detergent concentration in the range 0.001 - 25 % by weight.